



Northwest Center

People of all abilities

#9099

Mission

"To promote the growth, development and independence of people with developmental disabilities through programs of education, rehabilitation and work opportunity."

History

Since 1965, Northwest Center has been a leader in advancing equal opportunities for children and adults with developmental disabilities. Northwest Center was founded by a group of families in the Seattle area whose passion and commitment to inclusive opportunities for ALL children led to the creation of the Federal Education for All Act, and established the social enterprise model from which Northwest Center operates today.

Our Work

Northwest Center Kids provides inclusive care and services to infants, children and teens *with and without* developmental disabilities through a blend of education, early intervention, and childcare including before/after school care, teen programs and summer camps.

Northwest Center Employment Services assist adults through a wide spectrum of services, including job training, placement and on-site support.

Our Family of Businesses pride themselves on Quality, Value and Customer Service while creating inclusive environments where everyone is given the chance to reach their potential. Our businesses include catering, janitorial, commercial laundry, our signature Big Blue Truck™ and more!

Model

Every program and business we operate demonstrates the value that emerges when people of all abilities engage with each other in **work, learning, and life**. We fund our programs through a sustainable combination of profits from our *own* inclusive businesses, donations collected by The Big Blue Truck™, program revenue and philanthropy.

Vision: Inclusion is not a Compromise.

- When children of ALL abilities learn in an atmosphere of inclusion, they learn skills that bring out their very best qualities. Together children learn the true meaning of "community."
- Companies and organizations with a diverse and inclusive workforce experience higher sales, greater productivity, and improved morale – which improve the bottom line.



Photo by Nancy Treder

YOUR SUPPORT OF NORTHWEST CENTER helps to fund

- Early intervention therapists
- Continuing education and training for staff
- Dedicated classroom supports to serve specific needs/conditions
- Adaptive learning tools
- Facility improvements
- Job placement/recruiting staff
- 40,000 hours of job coaching in the Puget Sound area each year
- Technical resources, equipment
- Learning and work opportunities for all!

We serve more than 1,000 individuals and families annually.

We provide jobs to more than 400 people with disabilities.

SUPPORT NORTHWEST CENTER!

- **Donate** to The Big Blue Truck™, make a financial gift, choose Northwest Center as the beneficiary of your company's annual giving campaign, create a fundraising activity/event with your employees, community/school groups
- **Volunteer** - We have many ongoing volunteer opportunities
- **Do business with us** - Find out more about how our Family of Businesses can meet your company's needs
- **Hire our clients** - Let us show you how Northwest Center can help with your employment needs
- **Attend or Sponsor Events** - Provide opportunities for corporate recognition, networking and FUN!



Employment Services



We work with both employers and people of all abilities to secure mutually beneficial job placements within the community. Each person we serve begins with an individualized employment plan based on their unique interests, skills and aspirations. Through trial work assessments, skill building, job development, and ongoing support we assist each person in achieving their employment goals. Our clients face prejudices and misconceptions about their employment capabilities; Northwest Center works with the employee and employer to alleviate these concerns and to demonstrate the benefits of an inclusive workplace through positive and long-term employment.

Job Development & Support

- **Pre-Employment Services:** Skill building in realistic work settings. Resume creation, interview skill building, assistance with job applications, trial work experiences
- **Job Placement/Matching:** Working with employers to place clients in paid jobs in the community
- **On-going Support & Job Retention:** Working with clients during the tenure of their employment to ensure job stabilization and continued career development

School-to-Work

- **Collaboration:** We work with teachers, students and families to create an individualized transition plan designed to prepare students and place them in jobs by the time they graduate
- **Discovery:** identifying skills and interests of each individual
- **Community Internships:** providing work experience with local businesses
- **Placement:** successful job matching and placement by graduation

Impact

- We work with over 100 people with disabilities to find jobs in their communities at any given time
- We serve people of ALL abilities, with a focus on those with significant developmental disabilities
- Northwest Center provides over 100,000 hours of job coaching each year
- We currently support over 200 individuals with DD through supported employment.

Geography: Northwest Center currently serves King and Spokane Counties.

Business Partners

We focus on placing clients in jobs within the community at companies such as:

Amazon	PCC Natural Markets
Denali Fitness	QFC
Fred Meyer	Safeway Inc.
Frey Buck, P.S.	Sam's Club
Gene Juarez	Seattle Athletic Club
Home Depot	Starbucks
LA Boxing	T.J. Maxx
Northwest University	Target
Northwestern Mutual	The Gates Foundation
Parker Smith & Feek	Value Village

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Northwest Center Kids



Northwest Center Kids believes that all children should have the opportunity to learn, play, and grow together. Northwest Center Kids serves infants, children and teens with and without disabilities through a blend of education, early intervention and childcare including before/after school care, teen programs and summer camps. Through inclusive environments, children are given opportunities to reach their highest potential while developing positive attitudes toward people of all abilities. And their families gain tools and resources to approach the future with confidence and hope.

www.nwcenterkids.org

Early Learning and Childcare

We provide a full day early learning program and childcare for children with and without disabilities from 6 weeks of age until they enter kindergarten. Children of all abilities are recognized as unique individuals who play side by side learning valuable lessons from each other. Before/after school program and summer camps provides stimulating environments for children of all abilities from kindergarten to age 12.

Early Intervention

Northwest Center is a King County contracted provider of Birth to Three Early Intervention Services for children with developmental delays and/or disabilities. **Our Early Intervention Team includes: parents/primary caregivers, Speech/Language Pathologists, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Dieticians, Special Educators, Family Resource Coordinators and Family Support Specialists.** We use a comprehensive approach involving the family and other caregivers in the child's therapy, because everyone's participation influences the child's success. We provide therapy services wherever the child learns, plays and sleeps— including their home, their childcare center, Northwest Center's inclusive programs or other community settings.

Teen Program

Northwest Center Teens serves teenagers/youth of all abilities age 13-21. A valuable resource for working families, we offer an after school program, summer camp, specialized camps and various enrollment options. We provide a safe place for teens to go outside of school to meet others and socialize while learning valuable life skills and enjoying fun, recreational activities.

Geographic Reach

Northwest Center Kids operates two early learning facilities on Queen Anne and in the Chinook Building located in downtown Seattle. The Teen Program is located at the MLK F.A.M.E. Community Center in Madison Valley. Our early intervention program serves families in King County from Shoreline to Burien and west of Lake Washington.

Key Statistics

- We never turn a child away due to the severity of their disability.
- Serving more than 550 children annually.
- Over 200 children enrolled in our Early Learning Programs.
- About 140 children receive therapy services each month.
- Up to 40% of children in our classrooms have a disability.

Queen Anne School:

- ♦ 10 classrooms
- ♦ 127 Child capacity

Chinook School:

- ♦ 5 classrooms
- ♦ 60 Child capacity

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